

Regional Interagency Coordinating Committee

Minutes from 02-15-06

1. Welcome/Any needed introductions:
Present: Sandy McMerty, Connie Schwartz, Dorothy Larson, Florence Ducheneaux, Lorri Sandal, Deb Tibor, Cherie Mortenson, Carlotta McCleary, Becky Seavert, Lori Bergquist, Richard Rask, Michelle Hougen, Vicki Peterson, Shonda Wild, Jody Bettger-Huber, Roxane Romanick
2. Review of Minutes/Member Updates:
 - Changes on Minutes
 - Page 3, under Action Steps re: Natural Environments, 4th bullet down - this section was refined and changed review date
 - Page 3, under Action Steps re: Natural Environments, last bullet - this section was also refined - replaced action step that talked about doing mapping or serving of all of region in regards to community activities
 - Page 4 refined 5 and 6 directory of pediatric staff
 - Motion was made by Sandy McMerty to approve the Minutes. Motion made by Dorothy Larson, seconded by Lorri Sandal. **MOTION PASSED.**
 - UPDATES
 - Roxane Romanick - there was an in-service on the Infant See program www.InfantSee.org. There are 46 providers in North Dakota who will do an optometric assessment on infants ages 6-12 months. The mission is to promote first division assessment at ages 6-12 months. Those 46 providers in North Dakota will do the assessment for free to families. Dorothy asked if a parent has a concern just refer them? Roxane said no concern with the child is needed. Connie said you can call the North Dakota Optometric Association for brochures. Connie asked how they do the assessments. Lorri said they use black and white paddles and looking at eyes physically and dilating. Roxane added all optometrists are donating their time and all you need to do is call the phone number of the clinics that are providers.
 - Roxane Romanick - the Family Connections Conference will be in June (a handout was distributed). Roxane said a consultant is coming in to do what is called an open space. This will be more of an experiencing in generating issues from the floor. Issues will be discussed in groups.
 - Roxane Romanick - looking at joint orientation with RICC in Dickinson. Meeting will be held Saturday, March 4th if anyone is interested.
 - Connie Schwartz - there is a Breastfeeding Workshop on April 27th at the Comfort Inn.
 - Roxane Romanick - Family Leadership Training in Spirit Lake - ended up with 7 families from this region. They hit just over 50 people. They went through skill training in personal leadership development issues. The Harvey FCCLA Group provided the activities. It was well facilitated. Roxane said it was an amazing experience. Richard Rask said it was time well spent, the facilitator was great, and much was learned. Dorothy asked if it was

something we should share with parents in the area. Roxane said definitely. Richard added to be able to pick topics that are relevant to you was an outstanding format.

- Lorri Sandal - there will be a brainstorming on what we can do with families with daycare centers with 12 year olds or older on March 28th. Lorri will e-mail the time to Roxane. It is open to parents.
- Carlotta McCleary - their organization will be part of the Community Day Fundraiser with Herbergers. Anybody interested in buying a coupon is \$5 a piece. There is a \$10 off purchase inside the booklet. If interested let her know.
- Dorothy Larson - funding for daycare was cut. One whole daycare was shut down because of funding cut.
- Shonda Wild - they will add the Family Conference website on their newsletter. When she was at Region VIII they mentioned a sensory integration. Vicki has the flier. Roxane will scan the flier to send out. Vicki said they do have a group rate but not a single parent rate. There is a book coming out at Barnes and Noble for \$30.
- Roxane Romanick - Office of Special Education Conference in DC - there are no regulations on Part C. Lots of efforts on accountability and lots of stuff on family and child outcomes. There felt to be kind of a glass ceiling in regards to communication that had not been there before. They were pretty defensive about it.
- Florence said they just filled the Right Track Coordinator position. Tamara Alkire is the new Right Track Coordinator.
- Michelle Hougen - as of the beginning of January the Early Intervention Program hired Anna Bergman, who is also an Early Intervention parent. Madonna Mitzel, who is currently 60% time, has resigned as of February 27th so her position will be advertised. We are putting that to a full time position because we are also in the process of hiring Shannon Schroeder 30 hours/week. We are waiting for the State of North Dakota to send us a copy of her certificate. Sandy asked what areas the positions are in. Michelle said in order to work in Early Intervention, you have to be certified or licensed in your particular area in North Dakota, someone with experience in working with children birth-3, OT/PT, Special Education, Child/Family Specialist Degree from NDSU, family counseling, elementary teaching degree.
- Jody Bettger-Huber - right now we have 14 Right Track consultants. Most are in Burleigh/Morton. We are having a hard time keeping up with Right Track visits. We have 3 full time staff, 11-12 consultants, and we are looking to find at least 3 more in Burleigh County and 3 more in the outlining counties. We are contracted to do 225 home visits per month but we are excelling that, last month in January we did 283. We will have to re-look and request for more money in April. We are always running out of funds. Shonda asked what the qualifications are needed to be a consultant? Jody said a 4 year degree, it can be in Special Education and Early Childhood Special Education or elementary, OT/PT speech, birth-3 experience. We are

looking at a new screening tool. Right now we are using the Denver but we are looking at using the Ages & Stages screening tool.

- Michelle Hougen - Mental Health - we are continuing to get a lot of referrals for children ages 0-3 and 3-5 whose behavior is getting them kicked out of daycare settings. We need funding for a regular ed person who would be able to follow up on referrals and do functional analysis behavior. In preschool within the last year we have had more kids who are on IEPs because of real severe behavioral problem. We have qualified them through BASC but being able to have staff available to go in the child care setting to follow up on concerns is not possible due to lack of funding. Shonda said training for child care is needed. She will contact the Partnership Project. Dorothy added she has a child who has been kicked out of several daycares that she does not know what to do with. Lorri suggested she call West Central for partnership services. Richard asked if there is a parent education that can be done. Michelle commented maybe we are approaching this wrong. Maybe the first thing we should do whenever there is a child care provider crying out for help is the child care provider can get the parent to go through a training process. Carlotta added if a child has a disability but the child is not being evaluated with a disability, the problem is screening/evaluating children early and getting them the help they need. Jody asked are there different results in regards to screening the child at home as opposed to screening the child at daycare? Michelle said regardless if the child is 0-3 or 3-5, if their behavior is affecting placement in setting, rather than going through screening of Right Track, we can do a more in-depth screening in the social/emotional area also. Roxane asked who wants to formulate this in regards to an action step. Do you want to talk about it in sense of an action step? How are you going to get them? Michelle said we have been getting a number of phone calls. The child care provider needs to talk with the parent; the parent needs to give us a call for a referral for evaluation. Child Care Resource and Referral would work with the child first (environment), if there is nothing else they can do, the child care provider would tell the parent to contact BECEP. Michelle suggested setting up a time to meet as a Mental Health Work Group. Michelle said if we can get the child to qualify under the Special Education process, then we have funding. If the child cannot qualify under that process, then there is no funding because there is no position for someone to work with the family. A sign-up sheet was passed around for those that were interested in meeting regarding this issue.

3. Membership Review:

- Roxane Romanick said she would like to see more membership from Standing Rock. Dorothy said Kristi has been talking about moving to Bismarck. Sandy suggested her husband's boss. Dorothy suggested Rodney Froelich who is a legislator from Standing Rock.
- Connie asked how often we look at membership. Roxane said the action plan stated to review quarterly but we can do whatever fits our needs. All regions do it

- differently. Connie said quarterly seems frequent enough. Sandy asked if we need to make it official more often. Roxane said whatever feels right with the committee. Sandy asked if we can review it annually, accepting these today, and make a recommendation that should other parents need to be added add as a special agenda item. Richard asked if there is a maximum number needed. Sandy said we just have to maintain 30% parents. Connie asked what kind of people you look for in advocacy. Roxane said probably with a child focus. Shonda said she will talk to her neighbor who works in advocacy. Dorothy suggested Theresa Schneider. Sandy recommended Jeannie Delange. Jody recommended Jenny from Social Services.
- Committee Operational Guidelines handout - the group reviewed the handout, all good, no comments.
4. Election of Co-chairs:
 - Tabled
 5. Program Status - BECEP/Standing Rock Program Status - update on infant development contract:
 - Michelle Hougen - for many years part of our catchments area has been Sioux County Standing Rock. Sioux County will soon have their own Infant Development Program so we will not be providing services in that area. We are waiting to finalize the budget. Deb Balsdon said she had been receiving another piece of information from Jimmy Starr. Time wise she thought it would be within this fiscal year which would be through June. Currently we have a staff person through BECEP who is going down to Ft. Yates about two days a week, plus we have some contracts with Standing Rock with some staff through there. Lorri asked are parents going to have the option of either or, Standing Rock or BECEP. Michelle said yes. Sandy asked if there is anything the committee can do to help the process along? Lorri said no, it is all going to happen at the State level. Dorothy said everything is approved except the budget.
 7. Review of submitted compliance data:
 - Quarterly report handout was reviewed.
 8. Set RICC priorities:
 - Roxane asked the committee if the Childfind Partners meeting last year was helpful. Sandy said it was a positive thing in the end, the process was really good. Roxane asked if there are any other issues. She is looking at forming a group on universal endorsement of development screenings. Sandy said child care and finding child care for families, especially in the rural areas. Jody added even those families who need odd hour child care.
 9. Agenda items for May and June meetings:
 - Michelle Hougen asked if the April 19th meeting could be rescheduled to April 12th. No problems voiced.
 - Upcoming Work Groups:
 - Standardized State Forms for EI - Dorothy will attend

- State Work Group Parent Training/Professional Training, will do standardization and set criteria, \$10,000 available - Roxane and Vicki will attend
- Measuring Child Outcomes - Dorothy will attend
- Family Outcomes Measurements - Sandy will attend

10. Adjourn